

Alliance Point 10: Enhance cooperation along both sides of our common border to increase security.

ACTION	BASELINE As of 1 Feb 98	TARGET	MEASUREMENT	STATUS As of 31 Aug 99
<p>10.1. When the Binational Threat Assessment is updated, the two governments will develop a joint analysis of border violence and crime generated by drug trafficking.</p>	<p>The Binational Threat Assessment has not been updated since May, 1997 therefore, no binational analysis of border violence and crime generated by drug trafficking exists.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Border Liaison Mechanisms, local, state, and federal authorities from both countries meet periodically. In these meetings they analyze specific problems of violence and crime associated with drug trafficking. This has permitted the exchange of information and the identification of measures, in coordination with the counterpart to address acts of violence and crime on the border.</p>	<p>Within 6 months of the completion of an update of the Binational Threat Assessment, the two governments will develop a joint analysis of border violence and crime generated by drug trafficking.</p> <p>In 1999, both countries will carry out the necessary efforts within the framework of the HLCG to update the Binational Threat Assessment, including the problems of violence associated with drug trafficking on both sides of the border.</p> <p>In 1999, with the assistance of the BLMs, both countries will continue to analyze the problem of violence and crime in the border area, stemming from drug trafficking.</p>	<p>Development of a joint analysis of border violence and crime generated by drug trafficking.</p> <p>Update Binational Threat Assessment of the current drug problem/document.</p> <p>An integrated and balanced approach to the study.</p> <p>Number of consultations and/or work meetings carried out within the framework of the HLCG to update the Binational Threat Assessment.</p>	<p>Members of the High Level Contact Group (HLCG) consistently analyze border security.</p> <p>At meetings of Border State Attorneys, criminal activity and violence on the border (resulting from narcotrafficking) is discussed and possible solutions are analyzed.</p> <p>The Bi-national Threat Assessment is scheduled to be updated in the year 2000, including a study on crime and violence resulting from narcotrafficking.</p> <p>In line with the Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM) and the New Vision of the Border, subgroups on public and civic security have been established. Furthermore, meetings continue at the local, state and federal level to analyze the problems of violence and crime as the result of narcotrafficking.</p> <p>United States' Customs Service participates in bilateral working groups, which focus on cross-border violence.</p>

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<p>10.2. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will continue to strengthen programs to improve security at the principal ports in the border region.</p>	<p>No U.S. Border Coordination Initiatives have taken place.</p> <p>In the BLMs the agreement between the participating authorities to promote security measures at the border points of entry has been established, according to the necessities of each area. Such is the case of the actions taken to stop the recurrence of vehicles crossing the wrong lanes and “port runners” detected principally in the Tijuana/San Diego area. These issues are also reviewed in the Interagency Group for POEs and Border Services and the Binational Group Bridges and International Crossings. Within the framework of the New Border Vision, it was agreed to use the BLMs to direct more attention to border security, establishing specific subgroups on this subject.</p>	<p>The U.S. will implement the Border Coordination Initiative to serve as a framework to improve cooperation and coordination between U.S. personnel at the Southwest border. The initiative includes the following six components: port management improvements, intelligence cooperation, investigative coordination, joint plans for air and marine operations, technology coordination, and communications coordination.</p> <p>Establish the BLM sub groups on Border Public Safety.</p> <p>Continue and strengthen the BLM mechanisms.</p>	<p>Implementation of BCI by the U.S.</p> <p>Usefulness of the BLM and sub group meetings in increasing security at the principal border points of entry.</p> <p>Results and impact of the programs for increasing security at the border points of entry.</p> <p>Formation of sub groups.</p>	<p>The BCI has been implemented.</p> <p>Meetings on border security and points of entry continue.</p> <p>Changes in points of entry have contributed to enhanced border security.</p> <p>Mexico is concluding Operation Seal the Border in the Gulf of California and Mexico’s southern border, which has positive repercussions on border public security.</p> <p>In line with the BLMs, meetings at the local, state and federal level continue in order to increase security at the border’s main points of entry. Subgroups on public and civic security have been established in eight of the nine BLMs.</p> <p>The San Diego-Tijuana Bilateral Group meets quarterly. This group, comprised of local, state and federal agencies from both countries, discusses border security, auto theft, and the trafficking of illicit drugs and illegal immigrants.</p> <p>These bilateral units constitute coordination bodies that cover the theme of public security on the border (See Alliance Point 4).</p>

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<p>10.3. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will carry out bilateral meetings on means and options to increase security along the border region, with the participation of mayors, city council members, and other authorities from within the border region at the local, state and federal level.</p>	<p>Within the framework of the BLMs, the creation of a working subgroup for Border Public Safety has been agreed. To date, this subgroup operates in the Tijuana/San Diego area and is being formulated in the rest of the Mechanisms. One of the principal objectives has been to involve, along with the authorities of the three levels of government, other authorities and representatives of the private sector such as the mayors, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce, etc.</p>	<p>By July 1999, establish Border Public Safety subgroups to increase security in the border region.</p> <p>Continue to promote the participation of the authorities from the three levels of government in the BLM meetings.</p> <p>Continue consideration of these issues within BLM meetings.</p>	<p>Establishment of Border Public Safety working subgroups in the BLMs.</p> <p>Evaluate the usefulness of BLM and sub group meetings in increasing security.</p>	<p>See 10.2.</p>

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<p>10.4. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will strengthen bilateral cooperation in the border region through border liaisons that already exist and are coordinated by the Consuls.</p>	<p>Both countries have law enforcement representatives assigned to consulates in the border region.</p> <p>In accordance with the instructions given, the border Consuls, who preside at the BLM meetings, have been instructed to establish Border Public Safety working Subgroups.</p>	<p>By July 31, 1999, formalize a liaison officer contact for customs matters at appropriate consulate offices in both countries.</p> <p>By July 1999, establish the Border Public Safety working subgroups.</p> <p>By July 1999, carry out meetings in each area, outlining the issues of most importance on the subject of border security.</p>	<p>Appointment of liaison officers.</p> <p>Evaluate the usefulness of the BLM and subgroup meetings in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the region.</p> <p>Formation of the Border Public Safety subgroups.</p> <p>Effectiveness of the BLMs or of other entities in the resolution of public security problems in the border area.</p>	<p>SHCP has established two liaison offices (Washington, DC and Dallas, Texas).</p> <p>United States' Customs Service works with liaison officers in the main border cities. The Customs Service Attaché in Mexico City serves as the main channel for the exchange of information.</p> <p>To date, customs authorities on both sides continue to meet on an annual basis to evaluate routine border interaction and identify problems that can be resolved in a coordinated fashion.</p> <p>See 10.2. Status Para 5</p>

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10.4.1 Both governments will focus the Border Liaison Mechanism or other appropriate organizational entity on analyzing and proposing solutions to problems of public safety along the border.	One Border Public Safety subgroup exists in San Diego/Tijuana.	By July 31, 1999, both governments will establish Border Public Safety subgroups for every BLM.	Formation of the Border Public Safety subgroups.	See 10.2. Status para 5

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10.5. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will formalize a liaison officer contact for customs matters at the consulate offices in both countries.	See 10.4. To date, the Customs authorities of both countries carry out annual meetings to evaluate the daily interaction along the border and identify problems that may be solved in a coordinated manner. At the same time, Customs authorities of both countries are an integral part of the BLMs.	See 10. 4.	See 10.4. Usefulness of the Customs meetings to deepen the exchange of information regarding the interaction along the border and identify problems and find solutions.	See 10.4.
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<p>10.6. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will refine mechanisms for immediate communication (such as radio and telephone communication) between United States and Mexican officials at corresponding Ports of Entry on either side of the border within each country.</p>	<p>Although no specific formal mechanism is established, communication is taking place.</p> <p>The ongoing consultations through the BLMs have permitted the adoption of effective measures for promoting immediate communication between the authorities of both countries along the border.</p>	<p>Strengthening of the adopted measures in the framework of the BLMs for promoting immediate communication between the authorities of both countries.</p>	<p>Establishment of the adopted measures in the framework of the BLMs for promoting immediate communication between the authorities of both countries.</p> <p>Result and impact of the establishment of adopted measures.</p>	<p>There is routine two-way communication at points of entry between Mexican and U.S. officials.</p>

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<p>10.7. The Border Working Group will analyze existing port services and procedures to improve operational effectiveness.</p>	<p>One of the recurring themes in the Border Working Group has been the streamlining of border crossings, as in almost all of the ports of entry there exist problems in the crossing time at international check points. Because of this, actions have been carried out to diminish the waiting time for vehicle crossings.</p> <p>No analysis by the Border Working Group (BNC subgroup on border affairs) has occurred.</p>	<p>By July 1999, the Border working group will consult regarding port services and procedures at their next meeting.</p> <p>Promote in a joint manner new technologies that facilitate inspection and faster entry at the ports of entry.</p> <p>By July 31, 1999, U.S. Customs will complete an analysis of existing U.S. port services and procedures to improve operational effectiveness.</p>	<p>Consultations held.</p> <p>Installation of new technologies that facilitate the inspection and faster entry at the points of entry.</p> <p>Analysis completed.</p>	<p>The BNC's Working Group on Border Issues continues to meet on this issue. Mexico has established programs to enhance operational effectiveness at entry points in order to improve inspection and corresponding entry procedures.</p> <p>Mexico has expedited procedures for merchandise and passenger inspections at points of entry since the implementation of equipment such as <i>Mobile Search</i> and <i>Body Search</i>.</p> <p>USCS/San Diego has installed new license plate readers and a dedicated commuter lane for vehicles that frequently cross the border.</p>

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<p>10.8. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will work together to improve each country's ability to identify shipments which may be highly susceptible for use by drug traffickers in the transportation of illicit drugs.</p>	<p>There is no joint analysis of the potential threat posed by drug smuggling via railroads.</p> <p>There is no training in place in Mexico regarding the use of large X-ray equipment and ion scanners.</p> <p>Mexico counts on inspection systems in which various agencies responsible for drug control participate.</p> <p>The Government of Mexico carried out a study of the existing systems for the detection of drugs in conveyances; as a result of this analysis, Mexico acquired high tech equipment (mobile systems) that will allow the strengthening of vehicle and shipment inspection capacity, principally in the inspection check points (PRECOS).</p>	<p>The U.S. and Mexico will undertake a joint analysis of the potential threat posed by drug smuggling via railroads.</p> <p>Complete training on large X-ray equipment and ion scanners.</p> <p>In 1999, both countries will continue to exchange information with regard to the detection systems used by each country.</p> <p>Mexico will make more efficient the work that is being carried out in the different strategic highway crossings and in all the airports.</p> <p>Mexico will optimize the ground detection actions, through operationalization of the Mobile Systems of Cargo Inspection (Mobile Search).</p>	<p>Analysis completed.</p> <p>Mexican personnel trained.</p> <p>Evaluation of the utility of the training.</p> <p>Increase in the capacities of both countries in the identification of risky shipments.</p> <p>Evaluate the effectiveness of new procedures, equipment, meetings, etc.</p>	<p>Both countries have conducted their own studies on the trafficking of narcotics via train. The update to the Bi-national threat assessment will address this issue.</p> <p>Mexico has implemented measures that include inspection and X-ray equipment. Moreover, Operation Ion Scanner is in effect at Mexico City's International Airport. (See Alliance Point 11).</p> <p>-The Government of Mexico will provide a list of public servants that will be trained by the U.S. Customs Service to use this equipment. (See Alliance Point 11)</p> <p>-Mexico acquired the following equipment : <i>Mobile Search</i>, <i>Body Search</i> and <i>Buster</i> for the detection of narcotrafficking via land routes, as well as for the monitoring of airports, ports and border crossing points. (See Alliance Point 14.4)</p> <p>-The goal is to acquire more detection equipment programmed for 1999.</p> <p>Mexican authorities rely on canine units along the border to help fight narcotrafficking.</p>

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<p>10.9. The Governments of Mexico and the United States will undertake joint studies or analysis with respect to seizures that have taken place on the common border, particularly within cargo and conveyances.</p>	<p>While currently agencies of both countries (FEADS, Aduanas, DEA, and FBI) exchange information on investigations resulting from seizures and specific detentions a joint bilateral study of seizures that took place on the common border has not been carried out.</p>	<p>By July 31, 1999, the U.S. and Mexico will begin a systematic exchange of data relating to seizures along the common border on a quarterly basis, including the number of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana seizures (in total, by geographic location and by concealment type); and the amount of heroin, cocaine and marijuana seized (in total, by geographic location and by concealment type).</p> <p>Cooperate to identify the methods of transport most frequently used for illegal drug trafficking on the common border, as well as the type of drug that is commonly transported using these methods.</p>	<p>Establishment of data exchange mechanism.</p> <p>Quarterly exchange of data.</p> <p>Joint study of seizures that take place on the common border.</p> <p>Development of new counterdrug techniques or technology as a result of the studies.</p>	<p>Currently, there is an on-going exchange of information on seizures between high level government officials.</p> <p>U.S. Customs Service maintains database information available for exchange upon request by the High Level Contact Group.</p> <p>Information regarding seizures and transportation methods is exchanged at many levels including the HLCG, Senior Law Enforcement Plenary, and BIU's. Furthermore, the U.S. conducts weekly intelligence analysis on seizures.</p>